

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Room 167, Boston 02133-1054

KARYN E. POLITO

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

11TH WORCESTER DISTRICT
WESTBOROUGH • SHREWSBURY

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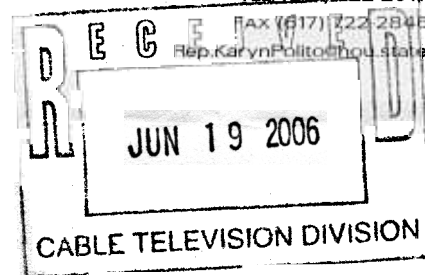
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Rep.KarynPolito@house.state.ma.us

June 14, 2006

Andrea Nixon
Clerk, Cable Television Division
Department of Telecommunications & Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02111



Dear Ms. Nixon,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Town of Shrewsbury in regard to Verizon's March 16, 2006, rulemaking petition filed with the Department of Telecommunications & Energy on the issue of CATV franchising process.

The proposed rulemaking is unnecessary because existing regulations already meet the needs of both the town and the local telecommunications operator. In regards to Shrewsbury, the municipally-owned Shrewsbury Electric and Cable Operations owns and operates all the Town's poles and wires. The town has an obligation to its citizens to receive fair market value for the use of public rights as a means of generating revenue through the private sector. Shrewsbury is open to establishing an agreement with Verizon that will satisfy their needs while maintaining fair market value for the use of these public resources. The proposed Verizon request would undermine public franchising and provide no benefits to the communities and its citizens.

Thank you for your attention to this very important issue. Please find enclosed a letter from John Lebeaux, Chairman of the Shrewsbury Board of Selectman. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Karyn E. Polito

State Representative

11th Worcester

101-10000
A01000000



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY
MASSACHUSETTS 01545-5398

June 12, 2006

Andrea Nixon
Clerk, Cable Television Division
Department of Telecommunications & Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Ms. Nixon:

The Town of Shrewsbury is opposed to Verizon's March 16, 2006, rulemaking petition filed with the Department of Telecommunications & Energy on the issue of CATV franchising process.

The proposed rulemaking is unnecessary because existing regulations meets the needs of both the Cities and Towns and the CATV operators. The only beneficiary of a regulation change that reduces the time to respond to a franchise request is the petitioner, Verizon.

At a time when many communities are faced with rising costs and slowed revenue growth it is critical that Towns reassess the market value of the use of public rights of ways to private profit making entities. The current franchise process allows worthwhile discourse amongst all stakeholders to craft a mutually beneficial agreement. Shortcutting this public franchising process has no benefit to the communities and its citizens.

The DTE must look at the Verizon proposed petition for what it is – purely a business decision designed to improve their profitability at the expense of due process or a franchising authority.

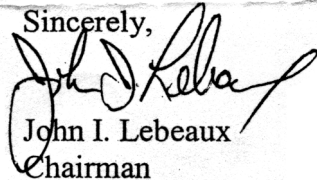
What is particularly disturbing is Verizon's attempt to cloak their request as "pro competition" when it is merely a sham and a deceitful argument to rid themselves of a proven franchise process used by incumbent CATV operators and Towns

I trust the DTE will see the petition for what it is and retain existing regulations that have allowed for competitive franchises by RCN, some municipal overbuilders and Verizon themselves.

I believe that it is also worth noting that while Verizon seeks to expedite the franchising process, this same company has prevented the Town from removing "double poles" in over one hundred locations throughout Town because they have not moved their wires while all other utilities have. In some cases, Verizon has not moved off the poles for more than twenty years! In our opinion, this is not only a public safety issue but an obvious double standard. Verizon has repeatedly ignored the Town's request to move their equipment off old poles but yet they seek an expeditious franchise process. It is wrong.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any further questions or desire further comment, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John I. Lebeaux", is written over the printed name and title.

John I. Lebeaux
Chairman
Board of Selectmen

/jmc

cc: Senator Augustus
Representative Polito